

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 04405 141503Z

12
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ITF-05 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 VO-03

SCA-01 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PM-03 DODE-00 H-02 PRS-01 /077 W
----- 012226

R 132051Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8606

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E O 11652 NA
TAGS SREF, CB CO
SUBJ: COMBODIAN REFUGEES

REF A. BOGOTA 4209 B. STATE 108703 C. GENEVA 3347

1. LOCAL UNHCR REP URRUTIA CALLED EMB ON MAY 12 TO DISCUSS
SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN MESSAGE OF MAY 8.

2. URRUTIA STATED THAT THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD BE WILLING
TO ALLOW THE PERSONNEL OF THE CAMBODIAN EMB TO REMAIN IN COLOMBIA.
URRUTIA POINTED OUT, HOWEVER THAT SUCH GOC PERMISSION DOES NOT PRO-
VIDE A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEMS FACED BY AMB VUTTHI

AND HIS STAFF. THE LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, URRUTIA SAID,
WAS SUCH AS TO PRECLUDE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT
IN COLOMBIA.

3. URRUTIA POINTED OUT THAT OF THE APPROX THREE THOUSAND CHILEANS
WHO CAME TO COLOMBIA AFTER THE OVERTHROW OF THE ALLENDE REGIME,
ALL BUT FIVE HUNDRED HAD LEFT, LARGELY FOR LACK OF EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES. URRUTIA NOTED THAT THIS SITUATION PREVAILED DES-
PITE THE LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL ADVANTAGES HELD BY THE CHILEANS,
IN CONTRAST TO THE CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS.

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 04405 141503Z

4. LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD, URRUTIA SAID THAT HE WAS LOOKING INTO

THE POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT OF SOME CAMBODIAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN COLOMBIA'S COASTAL REGION, WHERE SIMILARITIES OF CLIMATE AND CROPS MIGHT WORK TO ADVANTAGE OF SUCH SETTLEMENT. HE WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER THAT THIS LONG RANGE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE NO APPLICABILITY TO THE PRESENT PROBLEMS OF THE CAMBODIAN EMB STAFF.

5. AS POINTED OUT IN REF A THE CAMBODIAN AMB HAS BEEN DILIGENT IN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR LOCAL RESETTLEMENT. URRUTIA'S OBSERVATIONS, HOWEVER STRONGLY INDICATE THAT LOCAL RESETTLEMENT IS NOT A REALISTIC COURSE FOR THIS PARTICULAR GROUP.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, EMBASSIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA04405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750170-0196
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750555/aaaabxig.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BOGOTA 4209, 75 STATE 108703, 75 GENEVA 3347
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMBODIAN REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, CB, CO, (URRUITA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006